

Thorn Entrance Access Addendum to the Sinnett-Thorn Waiver

The Thorn entrance access is handled differently than the access into Sinnett. The combination for the Thorn gate is always different than the Sinnett gate combination. You must have 2 different combinations for a through trip. You must also send the STCC manager 2 forms; the basic waiver and this Addendum. Using the Connection requires no special permission. All individual cavers using the Thorn entrance must have specific and prior access permission from the STCC manager **before even attempting** the climb in or out of the Thorn entrance.

The trip leader must send the original signed waivers (copies and faxes not accepted) to the STCC manager. Included must be a listing for each caver that specifies the 2 ascents and 2 descents using knots or mechanical devices and proper in-cave rope climbing techniques. *List the caves in which the rope climbs were accomplished and the height of the climbs/drops.* Each caver **must** specify a minimum of two ascents and two descents.

The STCC manager will send back an e-mail listing all the cavers receiving permission to attempt the Thorn entrance. **This is not an approval of any safety techniques used or proposed to be used.** Safety is the responsibility of the trip leader and is not the responsibility of the owner, the STCC manager, Potomac Speleological Club, or any other individual or group. **The same waiver and rules for the Sinnett Cave are applicable to Thorn Cave.**

The properly completed hard copy forms must be received by the STCC Manager at the address listed on the bottom of the Rules and Requirements sheet before the Thorn combination will be given. Confirmation of the cavers who have been granted permission will be sent via e-mail along with the combination. **No other people are allowed to attempt the climb in or out of Thorn, or even to go onto the properties leading to the Thorn entrance without this confirmation.**

Rules And Requirements:

The Trip Leader has the responsibility of ensuring that appropriate safety procedures are diligently observed for all vertical procedures and techniques used and also for the safety of all the cavers while on the property.

Not all cavers can physically make it through the Connection due to size constraints. Some have been known to become claustrophobic, thus not being able to make it through the Connection. Because of this, **all cavers must be able to use and have access to proper ascending techniques and equipment when descending the Thorn entrance even if they do not plan on exiting the cave through the Thorn entrance.**

All who enter or exit the Thorn entrance must have had at least 2 previous in-cave descents **AND** 2 previous in-cave ascents of at least 30 feet each using the mechanical devices or knots, whichever is intended to be used in the Thorn entrance. Proper caving cable ladders may be used with a belay. The requirements are listed below.

All cavers attempting the Thorn entrance must use **Single Rope Techniques with a proper seat harness, a rack, figure eight, spool device, knots, or cable ladder (with belay) for the descent, and mechanical ascending devices, knots, or cable ladder (with belay) for the ascent.**

If using a cable ladder, proper belay techniques (**self-belays are not allowed**) must be used, and each caver must also be on a proper belay while entering or exiting the gate.. Each caver using the cable ladder must have had 2 ascents **and** 2 descents on a cable ladder of at least 20 feet long inside or outside of a cave.

When anchoring to a tree use a tree wrap to protect the bark to ensure no harm is done to the tree.

If attempting a through trip starting at the Sinnett entrance, Thorn must be rigged before prior to entering Sinnett (and obviously Thorn). No free, solo, or rock climbing (belayed or unbelayed) is ever allowed.

The Thorn entrance must remain rigged until the end of the trip, and derigged from the surface at the Thorn entrance. No "pull-downs" are allowed at any time for any reason at the Thorn entrance.

I understand vertical caving is a **very dangerous activity** and in case of an accident, **proper medical help may not be available for many hours, and maybe not even for days**. By my signature below, I take full responsibility for **my death**, or if signing as a parent, **my child's death**, accident, bodily injury or loss of my child or possessions. I, for myself, my heirs, executors and assigns, and, if signing as a parent, for my child and his or her heirs, executors and assigns, agree to hold the cave owner, his estate and heirs, The Potomac Speleological Club, the STCC manager, and all other affiliated groups and individuals blameless and harmless in case of any death or injury both in the cave, on the property, or at any time during the trip to or going to or from the cave. The information I have given below is accurate. I have read and understand, and accept all the rules and waiver requirements listed **both on this form AND on the standard Sinnett Cave trip form**.

Further, I understand and acknowledge that there are **BULLS LOOSE IN THE FIELDS** going to Thorn Cave and I accept full responsibility for my decision enter and cross said fields which might result in my death or severe and permanent injury.

The cave name and the approximate distance of the vertical drop must be listed for the ascents and descents. Cable ladder length (used in training/qualifying) must be listed if using a cable ladder.

Printed Name AND Signature	Parent sig., if a minor	Cable Ladder	Cable Ladder	Type of System Used
		OR	OR	
		Cave Ascents (2)	Cave Descents (2)	